

SCFA – Training Bulletin 23-10

Safety During Overhaul Operations

Opening up concealed spaces is necessary to find and extinguish hidden fire. More difficult in older structures with plaster and lath. Open up until a clean bay is found

Opening up concealed spaces will provide a flow path for the hidden and ventilation-limited fire: Be ready

A handline must be in place prior to pulling a ceiling or opening a wall

Sheetrock often falls in large, heavy sections- expect it

Sheetrock and insulation debris on the floor will make searches more difficult- complete searches first

Full PPE including SCBA is necessary to protect against smoke and toxic gases present during overhaul



Fire Dept. Actions

Make an inspection hole in each room adjacent to the fire area as necessary to determine extent of fire spread.

Based on ventilation profile of the structure vent windows prior to pulling ceiling.

If conditions permit, remove windows instead of breaking them.

Keep handline at the door and limit personnel in room to those pulling ceiling; falling sheetrock can injure. Wear all PPE!

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